

PHIL 20C / HOLDEN

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: EMPIRICISTS TO KANT

Spring 2007

MWF 11-11:50, 1610 Broida Hall

PROFESSOR

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--Office hours and sections to be announced (and posted on the course website)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is the third and final course in the Philosophy 20 series of classes surveying the history of philosophy in the West. In this last course, we examine the main developments in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries: the so-called early modern period. (Note that you do not have to have taken 20A or 20B in order to enroll for 20C.)

We will examine the work of four major figures in the period: John Locke (1632-1704), George Berkeley (1685-1753), David Hume (1711-1776) and Immanuel Kant (1724-1804). The focus of the course will be the metaphysical systems developed by these thinkers, and in particular their various theories of the relationship between mind and world.

Reading will consist largely in representative selections from each of the four historical figures.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING SCHEDULE:

To pass this course, you must be registered for a discussion section, you must turn in both papers, and you must complete the final. Grade composition is then as follows:

--First paper (4-5 pages) due Monday April 30th	20%
--Second paper (5-6 pages) due Friday June 1st	40%
--Final exam Thursday June 14 12-3pm	40%

NOTE ABOUT FINAL EXAM: *There will be no rescheduled exams. If you take this course, then it is your responsibility to be in town on Thursday June 14th to take the final exam.*

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- (1) Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins, ed., *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2: Locke, Berkeley, Hume and Associated Texts*, (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2000)
- (2) Immanuel Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*, 2d. edition, ed. James. W. Ellington (Indianapolis: Hackett 2001)

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://www.philosophy.ucsb.edu/websites/phil20C/>

READING REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to attend all class meetings and do the appropriate reading prior to class. Since philosophy involves close examination of often fairly dense arguments, here ‘doing the reading’ means much more than just skimming over the printed page. Doing the reading requires carefully and critically reading selections in their entirety; it requires making an attempt to understand *what* an author is claiming, *why* he or she is making that claim, and beginning to think about *whether those claims are justified*.

Of course, all that matters is that you make a sincere attempt to do this. If you could just read the material and master all its implications by yourselves, what would be the point of the course? You are hardly expected to have figured it all out before you walk in the door. That’s what we are going to try to do in class -- figure it out. But we can’t begin to make headway in class if you don’t make a sincere attempt to critically read the assigned material – and students who are not up to speed with the reading will slow the rest of us down. So I expect all students to come to class having done the reading, and ready to ask and answer questions about it.

PLAGIARISM AND OTHER ACADEMIC CHEATING:

I take this extremely seriously: *I will prosecute any offenses, seeking penalties ranging up to and including expulsion from the university*. It is your responsibility to make sure that your work does not violate university policies about plagiarism and other academic cheating. If you need any help in understanding these standards or are in any doubt about whether your work for this course violates them, it is your responsibility to find out by checking with me.

NO ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR EXTRA CREDIT: All students are expected to meet the same standards to pass the course. Doing additional assignments for ‘extra credit’ or catch-up grades is not an option.

STUDENT SUPPORT

OFFICE HOURS: My office hours are from 4:30-5:30 Mondays and Wednesdays (my office is SH 5710). (See also your TA’s office hours.) If you are unable to see me during my regular slot, I will be happy to schedule a mutually convenient time. *I encourage you to talk with me and with your TA outside of class*. (Note however: You should at least try to work around our schedules if possible. I do not take kindly to students making eleventh hour demands that I drop everything to meet them just before a test or paper due date, all because they were too disorganized to come and see me at the appropriate time.)

WRITING SUPPORT: Strong writing skills are indispensable for success in philosophy. Since philosophy requires the clear communication of often difficult and subtle ideas, weak writing renders high level performance impossible. In addition to any support the TAs and I can offer you, I encourage you to avail yourself of the help available from the Campus Learning Assistance Services writing tutors.

IF YOU FACE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES: If for any reason you face major difficulties -- medical or otherwise -- please get in touch with me as soon as possible. I am happy to work with you to find the best course of action and, if possible, to help you complete the course successfully.

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARY & OTHER RESOURCES

I don't ask students to read anything outside of the primary sources (the 'required texts'). *Generally speaking it is better to focus on reading (and re-reading) these primary texts carefully and critically, rather than spending time looking at the secondary literature.* (Philosophical thinking is best served by the sustained first-person examination of arguments, not traditional library and internet research.) However, if you do wish to seek help from such sources, the following texts are good places to start:

BOOKS HELD ON RESERVE IN LIBRARY

(to check out for two hours, go to circulation desk and give this course number)

Jonathan Bennett, *Locke Berkeley Hume: Central Themes* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1971) – dense but philosophically rich [on reserve in library]

Jonathan Bennett, *Learning from Six Philosophers* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), vol. ii – this volume covers Locke, Berkeley, and Hume [on reserve in library]

Nicholas Jolley, *Locke* (Oxford University Press, 1999) – an excellent, very accessible introduction to Locke's philosophy [on reserve in library]

E. J. Lowe, *Locke on Human Understanding* (London: Routledge, 1995) – a useful orientation to Locke's *Essay*, aimed at beginners [on reserve in library]

Vere Chappell (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Locke* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994) – a collection of useful essays on different aspects of Locke's thought [on reserve in library]

George Pitcher, *Berkeley* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1977) [on reserve in library]

A. C. Grayling, *Berkeley: The Central Arguments* (London: Duckworth, 1986) [on reserve in library]

David Fate Norton (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Hume* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994) – a collection of useful essays on different aspects of Hume's thought [on reserve in library]

Don Garrett, *Cognition and Commitment in Hume's Philosophy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997) – an important, text-driven study of the nuances of Hume's philosophy; influential [on reserve in library]

C. D. Broad, *Kant: An Introduction* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978) – an accessible orientation [on reserve in library]

Jonathan Bennett, *Kant's Analytic* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1966) – dense but philosophically rich [on reserve in library]

SYLLABUS AGENDA AND READINGS:

Note (1): Additional readings may well be added as we proceed, and (depending on our rate of progress) some sections may be cut.

Note (2): This timetable is simply a best-guess at our rate of progress, not a cast-iron guarantee. *It is subject to change as we proceed.*

WEEK 1

Mon April 2: Orientation and introduction

Wed April 4: Early modern philosophy and Locke's philosophical project

--Locke, 'Introduction' to the *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
(Unfortunately our anthology doesn't include this important part of Locke's *Essay*. But you can easily find it on the web, for instance here:
<http://www.ilt.columbia.edu/publications/Projects/digitexts/locke/understanding/introduction.html>)

Fri April 6: Locke's attack on innatism

--Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* book 1 chapters 1-3 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.11-17)

WEEK 2

Mon April 9: Locke on the origin and structure of ideas

--Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* book 2 chapter 1 sections 1-9, book 1 chapters 2-3, 5-7 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.17-19, 22-24, 25-26)

Wed April 11: Locke on primary and secondary qualities

--Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* book 2 chapter 8, and book 2 chapter 21 sections 1-3 only (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp. 26-31, 42-43)

Fri April 13: Locke on primary and secondary qualities (*continued*)

WEEK 3

Mon April 16: Locke on substance and substratum

--Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* book 2 chapter 23 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.53-61)

Wed April 18: Locke on substance and substratum (*continued*)

Fri April 20: Locke on personal identity

--Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* book 2 chapter 27 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.61-70)

WEEK 4

Mon April 23: Locke on personal identity (*continued*)

Wed April 25: Locke on the external world

--Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* book 4 chapter 11 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.104-108)

Fri April 27: Introduction to Berkeley; the primary-secondary quality distinction and immaterialism

--Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge*, preface (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, p.130)

--Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge*, sections 1-15 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.138-141)

WEEK 5

Mon April 30: Berkeley on substratum and some initial objections to immaterialism

--Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge*, sections 16-21, 34-48 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.141-143, 145-148)

FIRST PAPER DUE

Wed May 2: Berkeley's 'Master Argument' and immaterialism

--Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge*, sections 22-24 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, p.143)

Fri May 4: Introduction to Hume; Hume's mental geography

--Hume, *Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, sections 2 and 3 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.333-336)

WEEK 6

Mon May 7: Hume on inductive reasoning

--Hume, *Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, section 4 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.336-343)

Wed May 9: Hume's 'skeptical solution'

--Hume, *Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, section 5 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.343-349)

Fri May 11: Hume on causation: the negative phase

--Hume, *Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, section 7 part 1 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.351-356)

WEEK 7

Mon May 14: Hume on causation: the positive phase

--Hume, *Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, section 7 part 2 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.356-359)

Wed May 16: Hume on skepticism and the scope of natural religion

--Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, parts 1 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.396-401)

Fri May 18: Hume on the design argument 1

--Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, parts 2-3 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.401-409)

WEEK 8

Mon May 21: Hume on the design argument 2

--Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, parts 4-5 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.409-414)

Wed May 23: Hume on the cosmological argument

--Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, part 9 (our anthology doesn't include this short part, but you can link to it for free through various websites, such as:
<http://www.philosophyofreligion.info/dcnr9.html>)

Fri May 25: Hume on the problem of evil

--Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, part 11 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.421-426)

WEEK 9

Mon May 28: NO CLASS (Memorial Day)

Wed May 30: Hume's assessment of natural religion

--Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, part 12 (in *Readings in Modern Philosophy Volume 2*, pp.426-433)

Fri June 1: Introduction to Kant; Kant on the possibility of metaphysics

--Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*, preface (pp.1-8)

SECOND PAPER DUE

WEEK 10

Mon June 4: Kant on the synthetic a priori

--Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*, preamble sections 1 and 2 (pp.9-14)

Wed June 6: Kant on geometry and critical idealism

--Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*, 'How is pure mathematics possible?' (pp.23-34)

Fri June 8: Wrapping up

EXAM WEEK

Thurs June 14: FINAL EXAM, 12-3pm

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